MARVEL

#5

RATED T+

CHAPMAN
STOKOE

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE

HELLO! IT'S ME -- EVERYONE'S FAVORITE SUPER HERO. THE MERC WITH A MOUTH! THE REGENERATIN' DEGENERATE! THE ONE, THE ONLY... *DEADPOOL!*

I BET YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I CALL MYSELF DEADPOOL. WELL, FEAR NOT! HERE'S THE PART WHERE I REVEAL MY *ORIGIN STORY!*

IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WENT SWIMMING IN A RADIOACTIVE POOL, GRANTING ME POOL-LIKE POWERS...

NO, WAIT. *ACTUALLY,* I WAS IN AN ALLEY AND WATCHED MY PARENTS SUDDENLY DROWN IN A SURPRISE POOL. USING THE FAMILY FORTUNE, I VOWED TO AVENGE THEM BY DRAINING EVERY POOL IN GOTH-

I LIED! I WAS REALLY TAKING A BATH JUST A MILE FROM THE DETONATION OF THE *GAMMA BOMB* THAT GAVE THE HULK HIS POWERS AND --

YOU KNOW WHAT? I BET YOU KNOW THE STORY ANYWAY. **TURN THE PAGE!**

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SPECIAL THANKS TO DEE CUNNIFFE

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STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS FOUND TAPEWORM LARVAE IN THE FOSSILIZED FECES OF A DINOSAUR SHARK.

PREHISTORIC SHARK POOP. FULL OF LI'L BUNDLES OF PARASITIC JOY. TRUE STORY.

HERE'S HOPING NOBODY GOES POKING AROUND *MY* BMs 270 MILLION YEARS FROM NOW.

CRUNCH

IT'S BEEN GOOD HAVING SOMEONE TO TALK TO. IT GETS SO LONELY UP HERE.

HOOT!

I FEEL LIKE WE REALLY *BONDED.*

RIPLEY DIAGNOSTICS

WELP. OFF TO WORK WE GO...

PEEKABOO.

GOT A NAUGHTY DOC WHO DOESN'T WANT TO SHARE HIS NEW TOYS WITH THE PENTAGON.

DID I SAY *DOCTOR*? SORRY...WHAT I MEANT TO SAY WAS *PARASITOLOGIST*.

AUGMENTED BIOLOGICAL SYMBIOTICS. ORGAN TRANSPLANTS. WET WEAPONRY. ICKY STUFF.

SPECIMENS E-N

THIS LAB HAS GONE 3 DAYS THOUT AN ACCIDENT

JUST WHAT KINDA SICK, TWISTED STD IS THIS GUY FOOLING WITH 'ROUND HERE?

OH, YEAH...I CAUGHT ME A BAD CASE OF THE CRABS BACK IN THE DAY. LOOKED JUST LIKE *THAT* UGLY SON OF A GUN. TOOK ME THREE WEEKS JUST TO SCRUB OUT MY--

YIKES! DR. SCOTT! DIDN'T HEAR YOU THERE. LET'S WORK ON OUR LURCHING, OKAY?

WHAT'S THE HAPS, CRAPS? CAT GOT YOUR...

...TONGUE?

SORRY. NEVER KISS ON THE FIRST DATE. IT'S A RULE OF MINE.

SHLUUP

SHLUUP

SHLUUUUP

EW... EASILY THE GROSSEST THING I'VE SEEN ALL DAY.

WELL, DEFINITELY IN THE TOP THREE.

SSSPAWNED USSSS... SSSSPLICED USSSSS... SSSSTUDIED USSSSS...

HARVESSSTED USSSS...FOR ORGAAAN TRANSSSSPLANT... WEAPONSSSS...

PERFECT SSSSSSYMBIOTIC BOND...MAN AND PARASSSSSITE... BUT NOOW...

...NOOW WEEEE AARE YOOOUR MASSSSTERSSSS...

THIS HAS BEEN FUN AND ALL. THANKS FOR THE TOUR. BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO, YA KNOW...

...HOP BACK IN YOUR JARS LIKE GOOD LIL' TAPEWORMS.

JOOOIN USSSSSSSSS...

NOT THE SUIT! NOT ON THE---OH, COME ON. I JUST GOT THIS DRY-CLEANED!

CRUSH

TICKLES! OOH--THAT TICKLES! HEY! NO HICKIES! NO HICKIES!

HEY! MR. HANDS! WHICH ONE OF YOU KEEPS KNOCKING ON THE BACK DOOR?

BAD TOUCH. BAD TOUCH!

WELL, WHAT'VE WE GOT HERE...? NOW AIN'T THIS JUST A KICK IN THE PANTS?

"HELLO DARKNESS, MY OLD FRIEND...

KLYNTAR SYMBIOTE

"I'VE COME TO BOND WITH YOU AGAIN."

KLYNTAR SYMBIOTE

I'VE GOT A PLUS-ONE TO THIS SLIMY SAUSAGE PARTY, AND I SURE COULD USE SOME ARM CANDY...

SPLIICH

RRRAAAAAAGHH!

NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

YOU. NO ROOM FOR YOU.
STEP OFF.
SQUEEEEEZE
POP!
GET YOUR TENDRILS OFF OUR MAN.
WHEW. TALK ABOUT A CLEANSE. I FEEL DETOXED ALREADY. SO...WHERE WERE WE?
"...A TAPEWORM SOFTLY CREEPING?
"LEFT ITS BROOD WHILE I WAS SLEEPING. AND THE EGGS... THAT WERE PLANTED IN MY BRAIN...
"...STILL REMAIN."
NOW WE GET TO BE THE HERO! WE GET TO SAVE THE DAY! WE GET TO...
...EAT SOME ESCARGOT!
TOOOO LAAATE...

WE HAAAAVE BEEN RELEEAASSSSSED...

WEEE ARE LEEEEGION...

WEEEEE ARE--

"PUTTING US TO SLEEP." LESS MONOLOGUING, MORE SQUISHING.

"ST. MACREADY'S HOSPITAL"? HMM... LOOKS LIKE WE AIN'T DONE JUST YET.

GOTTA HUNT DOWN A FEW ERRANT PARASITES BEFORE THEY HOOK UP WITH A FEW NEW HOSTS...

...AND BASH SOME BAD GUYS.

BUT FIRST, UH...MIND IF WE MAKE A QUICK PIT STOP?

IS THAT EVERYBODY? ALL THE LITTLE PARASITES OUT BACK THERE?

BUELLER...? BUELLER...?

FLUUUSSSH

"BUT MY TURDS LIKE VIOLENT RAINDROPS FELL. AND ECHOED IN THE WELLS...

ST MACREADY'S GENERAL

"...OF VIOLENCE."

OKAY, KIDDIES. TIME TO SEE A REAL HERO IN ACTION.

PATIENT?

SEDATED.

WE'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS HISTORY, FOLKS. PREPARE FOR THE WORLD'S FIRST...

BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEP--

...PARASITIC LIVER-HYBRID TRANSPLANT.

BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEP-

THIS IS THE FUTURE OF ORGAN TRANSPLANTS, PEOPLE.

JUST THIS WEEK ALONE, I'VE ALREADY TRANSPLANTED A PARASITIC HEART, A PAIR OF PARASITIC LUNGS, A PARASIT--

STOP THAT TRANSPLAA--!

...URP. TOO LATE, HUH?

BEEP-
BEEP-
BEEPBEEPBEEPB

WEEEEEEE AAAAARE LEEEEEEEEGION!

OKAY, OKAY...WE GET IT, YOU'RE A *HIVE MIND.*

GEEZ. SUCH A BROKEN RECORD WITH THESE WORMS, AM I RIGHT?

JOOOOOOIN USSSSSSSS...

I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT I'M A *ONE* PARASITE KINDA GUY. *SORRY.*

WEEE *AAAARE* OOOOOONE...

DON'T WORRY. THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER HOSTS IN THE SEA.

BOY. OH BOY... THESE SQUIRMY-WORMIES ARE MUTATING LIKE A MOTHE*RRRR*--

YOUUUUU WIIIILLL BEEEE *OURSSSSS!*

WHOA, HO-HO-HO, FELLAS. EASE UP! THERE'S PLENTY OF ME TO GO AROUND.

I WISH I KNEW HOW TO QUIT YOU...

ZZZZZZT

CLEAR.

OH, I FELT THAT ONE IN MY GNARDS...

HEY! JUST WHERE D'YA THINK YOU'RE GOING, MISTER?

COME BACK WITH THAT MEAT SUIT!

WE'RE NOT THROUGH WITH YOOOU!

UH... HOW'S IT HANGING, GUYS?

JOOOOOOOIN UUSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS...

DR-2

PATIENT CARE

WEEE HAVE LEEECHED OFF YOUR BLOOD FROM THE SSSHAADOOWSSS...

...NOOOW WEEE SSSSHAALLL CRAAAAWL INTOOOO THE LIGHT...

THIS...THIS *RELATIONSHIP* OR WHATEVER YOU WANNA CALL IT. IT'S JUST NOT WORKING OUT.

YOOOOOUR BODIESSSSSS WILL BEEEE OOOUR TEMPLESSS...

I TOTALLY DIG THAT YOU'RE INTO MULTIPLES. MIXING IT UP. SWAPPING. FUN TIMES.

BUT EVEN A *MÉNAGE A TRENTE* CAN GET A LITTLE BORING AFTER A WHILE.

IT'S NOT YOU, BABY. IT'S ME... HONEST.

YOOOU WILL BE OOOUR PUPPETSSS...

AH, HELL. WHO ARE WE KIDDING? OF *COURSE* IT'S YOU. AND YOU...AND YOU...

AND YOU AND YOU AND YOU AND YOU ANDYOUANDYOUAND...

OOOUR SSSSSSKIN...

HEEEELP MMMM...

...EEEEEEE...

WITH RESTLESS SCREAMS I WALKED ALONE...

SOMETHING STREETS AND KIDNEY STONES...

BENEATH THE HALO OF A HMM HMM HMM...

I SOMETHING-SOMETHING-SOMETHING COLD AND DAMP...

WHEN MY EYES WERE STABBED BY THE GASH OF A PARASITIC MITE...

...THAT SPLIT ME RIGHT.

AND TOUCHED MY MOUND OF... WHOA!

HYYUUUUUUUULCH!
HYYYYYUUUUUUUUULLCH!

OH...OH, BOY. I...I'VE NEVER... NEVER FELT SO...

...SO *VIOLATED* BEFORE.

AND THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING.

RRRRRAAARGH!

WATCH OUT, LADIES...GOOD OL' SUPER WADE IS BACK IN THE SADDLE!

AAAAH!
AAAAAH!

NOT SO...

...PAST.

SPLEEECH

IT FEELS GOOD...

...TO BE BACK.

TO BE US AGAIN.

TO BE ONE.

SKKKRRRRP

SPLOOOOOOSH

YOU COMPLETE US.

BBBZZZZZZ

AAAAAARRGGH--!

ZZZSSTTCCKKTTCCKKSSZZ

WHAT IS YOUR DAMAGE, LADY!?

WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS HERE!

A SIMPLE "THANK YOU, WADE, I LOVE YOU, WADE, HOLD ME, WADE," WOULDN'T HURT.

GUESS WE BETTER WORK ON OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS A BIT, HUH?

AAAAAAAAAAH!

SO HOW 'BOUT WE DO WHAT HEROES DO AND...

...BE HEROIC.

HEALTHY BABIES LIKE CLEAN HANDS

CONGRATULATIONS! IT'S A GIRRRRRRRRRRRL!

WHO WANTS A BALLOON ANIMAL?

CHILDREN'S WING

SPLCH SULCH SKUULP

EAT YER HEART OUT, PATCH ADAMS.

COMING THROUGH! MAKE WAY! OFF TO THE COLON HYDROTHERAPY! BEEP-BEEP!

SAVING LIVES. INSPIRING MINDS. FILETING TAPEWORMS.

OUR WORK HERE'S DONE.

WE ARE FREEEEEEEE!

WHAT THE...?

OKAY... WHICH ONE OF YOU... FLUSHED THE TOILET... LAST?

YOU'RE... SUPPOSED TO...JIGGLE THE...

...HANDLE!

POP!

SSKKEEEEEE

"AND NO ONE DARED DISTURB THE SOUND OF..."

...BEEEEP?

ST MACRE
GENERA

EMERGEN

...HHHHYUUUUUUUUNGK!

THAT. *HURT.* WELL, AT LEAST NOW I KNOW WHAT MY *SPLEEN* TASTES LIKE.

AT LEAST, I *HOPE* THAT'S MY SPLEEN.

ON YOUR FEET, SOLDIER.

GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON NOT TO RIP YOUR HEAD OFF.

AND EAT IT.

WHOLE. WITH GREY POUPON.

HOW'S THIS: THERE'S A WAR GOING ON AND WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

OOOF--

WELL, WHEN YOU PUT THAT WAY... *SIGN ME UP, SARGE.*

IT'S CAPTAIN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN *VENOMVERSE!*

THIS IS IT, VENOMANIACS!

VENOM EDITOR DEVIN LEWIS REPORTING TO YOU LIVE AND IN PRINT FROM MARVEL HQ IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK AS WE STAND ON THE PRECIPICE OF THAT MOST MOMENTOUS OF MIGHTY MARVEL TALES – VENOMVERSE! THE STORY THAT WILL TAKE EDDIE BROCK TO THE FURTHEST REACHES OF THE COSMOS ON AN ADVENTURE NEITHER YOU NOR HE WILL SOON FORGET!

AND IT STARTS IN TWO WEEKS!

IF YOU'RE A VENOM READER WHO'S JOINED US FOR THIS OR ANY OF THE OTHER EDGE OF VENOMVERSE ISSUES, WELCOME TO THE CRAZINESS! BE SURE TO GO GET THE OTHER FOUR ISSUES OF THIS EDGE OF VENOMVERSE MINISERIES – THEY WERE ALL WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY DIFFERENT CREATIVE TEAMS, AND EACH ONE PUTS A UNIQUE SPIN ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE VENOM SYMBIOTE AND ITS HOSTS.

IF YOU'VE BEEN WITH US FROM THE BEGINNING, WE HERE AT THE HOUSE OF IDEAS HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED THESE FIVE STORIES AND THE CHARACTERS YOU'VE MET IN THEM. REST ASSURED, WOLVERINE, GHOST RIDER, LOGAN AND, YES, EVEN DEADPOOL ARE ALL APPEARING IN THE MAIN VENOMVERSE TITLE – AND WE MAY EVEN FIND OUT WHAT FATE BEFELL POOR GWENPOOL!

BUT **WAIT! THERE'S MORE VENOMOUS FUN TO BE HAD!**

IF YOU WANT TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH A FEW OF THE VENOMIZED HEROES WHO'LL BE APPEARING IN VENOMVERSE BUT WEREN'T IN THESE EDGE OF ISSUES, BE SURE TO PICK UP ***VENOMVERSE: WAR STORIES***, A COLLECTION OF TALES FROM ACROSS THE MARVEL MULTIVERSE THAT WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU BY SOME OF THE BEST WRITERS AND ARTISTS IN THE BIZ!

OF COURSE, ***VENOMVERSE*** CAN BE ENJOYED ON ITS OWN, BUT A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO ***WAR STORIES*** FROM ***CULLEN BUNN*** AND ***ANNAPAOLA MARTELLO*** GIVES A GLIMMER INTO THE WORLD THAT YOU AND EDDIE BROCK ARE GOING TO FIND YOURSELVES PULLED INTO. ADD A ***DECLAN SHALVEY*** WRITTEN-AND-DRAWN VENOMIZED PUNISHER STORY TO THE MIX AND THIS'LL BE ONE ISSUE YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!

THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN ENOUGH FOR THE DISTINGUISHED COMPETITION, BUT IT WASN'T FOR YOUR PALS IN THE VENOM OFFICE, TRUE BELIEVERS, BECAUSE WE'VE GONE THE EXTRA MILE AND WILL BE INTRODUCING YOU TO NOT ONE BUT TWO TERRIFIC WRITERS WHO'LL BE MAKING THEIR MARVEL DEBUTS IN **WAR STORIES.** FIRST ***NNEDI OKORAFOR*** – ACCLAIMED AUTHOR OF *WHO FEARS DEATH* AND *BINTI* – WILL BE TEAMING WITH ***TANA FORD*** TO TELL THE TALE OF A VENOMOUS BLACK PANTHER, AND TRUST ME WHEN I SAY THAT IT'S GOT AN ENDING YOU'LL NEVER SEE COMING. LONGTIME WEBHEADS WILL RECOGNIZE TANA, TOO, FROM HER LONG RUN ON **SILK**!

THEN COMES THE TALE OF A VENOMOUS DOCTOR DOOM BY CO-WRITER OF THE HIT MOVIE **CREED**, ***AARON COVINGTON***, AND ***MOSAIC*** ARTIST ***KHARY RANDOLPH!*** VICTOR VON DOOM, BIGGEST BAD IN THE WHOLE MU, AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE? WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED?!

THAT ONE LANDS ON STANDS IN TWO WEEKS, SAME DAY AS

VENOMVERSE: WAR STORIES #1

VENOM #154

ITEM: MEANWHILE IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, THE ONGOING ADVENTURES OF EDDIE BROCK CONTINUE IN ***VENOM #154***, ALSO ON SALE NEXT MONTH! WE'VE GOT AN AMAZING STORY BY ***MIKE COSTA*** AND GUEST ARTIST ***PAULO SIQUEIRA!*** MIKE'S SCRIPT GIVES INSIGHT INTO THE SYMBIOTE'S PERSONALITY IN A WAY THAT WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE, AND THE ART IS ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE – PAULO'S DRAWN JUST OVER HALF OF THE ISSUE AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING, AND IT'S BEEN GIVING ME NIGHTMARES FOR WEEKS! IF YOU'RE A FAN OF VENOM, YOU CAN'T MISS IT!

ALL RIGHT, SYMBIOTE-LOVERS, THAT'S IT FOR THIS ONE. BE SURE TO LET US KNOW HOW YOU ENJOYED THESE EDGE OF VENOMVERSE ISSUES BY SENDING YOUR LETTERS TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM AND KEEP 'EM COMING DURING THE MAIN EVENT!

SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE!
DEVIN

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE

JUNE

- [x] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #1

JULY

- [x] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #2
- [x] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #3

AUGUST

- [x] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #4
- [x] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #5

VENOMVERSE

SEPTEMBER

- [ ] VENOMVERSE: WAR STORIES #1
- [ ] VENOMVERSE #1
- [ ] VENOMVERSE #2
- [ ] VENOMVERSE #3
- [ ] VENOMVERSE #4

OCTOBER

- [ ] VENOMVERSE #5

ZONE